REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference in which the Examiner indicated that the Examiner would reevaluate claim 28 in view of the prior rejections since the rejection did not address claim language of claim 28 and that claim 28 may be allowable.

Claims 1, 4-11, 13, 15-17, 19, 22-23, 25-28 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillespie in view of Surugucchi et al. and Venkat. As a preliminary matter, Applicants have canceled claim 32 without prejudice and have added new claim 34 which is dependent upon claim 1 and contains limitations from claim 28 which are also believed to be allowable for reasons set forth below. In the "Response to Arguments" section of the final action, the office action again appears to overlook specific claim language which Applicants noted was not rejected in the previous response. Accordingly, if the rejections are maintained, Applicants respectfully request that all of the limitations be addressed in any subsequent office action. For example, as to claim 1, Applicants noted that the claim requires, among other things, a data bridge system that includes a data bridge having a read only memory for storing at least initial values and mask values for each ASIC of a plurality of ASICs. The EEPROM 31 cited in Gillespie as allegedly corresponding to this structure (EEPROM 31 in Gillespie) (see final office action, page 3) is not in the bus bridge 7 of Gillespie and hence the claimed data bridge is different from that in Gillespie. Also, the bus bridge in Gillespie does not include initial values and mask values for a plurality of ASICs. As such, the reference does not teach what is alleged and accordingly, the claims are in condition for allowance.

As to claim 10, the claim requires, among other things, a method for configuring a plurality of ASICs in a multi-ASIC system that includes forming configurable registers from

initial values and mask values from a read only memory that upon initialization of the system, cause the system to allocate resources to each of the plurality of ASICs. Applicants are unable to find any formation of configurable registers as claimed taught in the references and the office action does not appear to address this language. Accordingly, the claims are in condition for allowance.

As to claim 28, the claim requires, among other things, at least one configurable register that includes register configuration logic and at least one register flop to contain an initial value and at least one mask value that generates a mask bit for the configuration logic and <u>wherein the register configuration logic configures the at least one register flop to be read or writable</u> based on at least one mask value stored in the memory. Again, the "Response to Arguments" section does not address this language nor does the main rejection of the final action nor did the previous rejection. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is in condition for allowance as the subject matter is not taught or suggested by the cited references. The other independent claims are allowable for relevant reasons above.
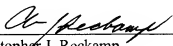
The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

For example, as to claim 8, the data bridge has a plurality of base address registers that are programmable as a function of the initial values and mask values in the read only memory. The base address registers of Surugucchi are not programmable based as a function of initial values and any mask values in read only memories as alleged.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: ___6/30/06___

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